

Message Text

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SUBJECT: DIET DELEGATION VISIT TO US

SUMMARY: THIS MESSAGE DESCRIBES PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR A TEN MEMBER JAPANESE POLITICAL DELEGATION VISIT TO THE US. SIX VISITORS WILL BE DIET MEMBERS. THE TRIP IS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 4-15. THE VISIT IS PART OF ONGOING EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE AMERICAN COUNCIL OF YOUNG POLITICAL LEADERS AND THE JAPAN COMMITTEE FOR YOUNG LEADERS. INFORMATION ABOUT CURRENT AMERICAN PLANNING IS REQUESTED. END SUMMARY.

1. YOJI YAMAMOTO (SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO TADASHI YAMAMOTO) OF THE JAPAN CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE (JCIE) CALLED AT THE EMBASSY JANUARY 13 TO EXPLAIN CURRENT STATUS OF UPCOMING JAPANESE POLITICAL DELEGATION VISIT TO US. HE SAID VISIT WAS PART OF ONGOING CONGRESSIONAL/DIET EXCHANGE PROGRAM BETWEEN AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR YOUNG POLITICAL LEADERS (EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: SPENCER OLIVER) AND JAPAN COMMITTEE FOR YOUNG LEADERS, FOR WHICH JCIE ACTS AS SECRETARIAT. THE GROUP OF JAPANESE POLITICIANS IS SCHEDULED TO VISIT THE US FOR TEN DAYS FROM FEBRUARY 4, RETURNING TO JAPAN FEBRUARY 14 OR 15.

2. AS THINGS NOW STAND, ENTIRE GROUP WILL CONSIST NF TEN POLITICIANS, INCLUDING SIX DIET MEMBERS, AND TENTATIVELY YAMAMOTO FROM JCIE TOKYO OFFICE, AND PETER KAMURA, JCIE US REP. (NOTE: THEY ARE ALSO COUNTING ON TWO STATE DEPARTMENT INTERPRETERS.) NAMED THUS FAR ARE:
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-- HEAD OF DELEGATION: KEIZO OBUCHI (37), LDP LOWER HOUSE MEMBER, FORMER DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, AND FORMER PARLIAMENTARY VICE MINISTER OF CONSTRUCTION AND OF POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATION;

-- ASSISTANT HEAD OF DELEGATION: YOSHIO DOMORI (71), JSP LOWER HOUSE MEMBER, CHAIRMAN OF LOWER HOUSE WELFARE COMMITTEE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEMBER;

-- DELEGATION COORDINATOR: KIYOSHI MIZUNO (50), LDP LOWER HOUSE MEMBER, FORMER PARLIAMENTARY VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND CURRENTLY FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEMBER;

-- MORIHIRO HOSOKAWA (38), JSP UPPER HOUSE MEMBER, CURRENTLY PARLIAMENTARY VICE MINISTER OF FINANCE (IF HOSOKAWA IS UNABLE TO COME, HE IS LIKELY TO BE REPLACED BY YUTAKA HATA);

-- EIICHI NAGASUE (57) DSP LOWER HOUSE MEMBER, CHAIRMAN OF DSP FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE AND MEMBER OF LOWER HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE. STILL TO BE NAMED ARE A CGP DIET MEMBER AND FOUR PREFECTURAL ASSEMBLYMEN OR MAYORS.

3. YAMAMOTO HAD SOME SPECIFIC REQUESTS:

--WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF PLANNING ON THE US SIDE? HE IS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE SCHEDULE FOR THE VISIT SINCE THAT WILL AFFECT SELECTION OF NON-DIET DELEGATION MEMBERS. BUT HE WOULD LIKE INFORMATION ABOUT OTHER ASPECTS OF THE PLANNING AS WELL;

-- HE SUGGESTS THE GROUP MIGHT WISH TO OBSERVE A PRIMARY ELECTION IF THAT WOULD BE POSSIBLE;

-- COORDINATOR MIZUNO IS INTERESTED IN MEETINGS WITH SENATOR TALLMADGE, REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS FOLEY AND OFFICIALS OF THE FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE, ALL OF WHOM HE HAS MET WITH RECENTLY;

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-- TO PERMIT CGP PARTICIPATION, IT IS ALSO NECESSARY TO HAVE A FORMAL INVITATION FROM THE AMERICAN COUNCIL AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

4. COMMENT. IN TALKING WITH YAMAMOTO, WE GAINED THE IMPRESSION THAT COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE JCIE AND THE AMERICAN COUNCIL MAY HAVE BROKEN DOWN A BIT. ANYTHING THE DEPARTMENT CAN DO TO FACILITATE ARRANGEMENTS WOULD

BE TIME WELL SPENT IN OUR VIEW.
HODGSON

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